

# Read Me First

## Greetings!

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is working to implement the new Medicare prescription drug coverage, and the Medicare Rx *Help is Here Resource Kit* is part of that effort. The Resource Kit provides you with the tools and information you need to help people with Medicare understand and decide about Medicare prescription drug coverage, as well as to help those who choose to enroll with the steps involved in joining a plan. We are excited and very appreciative of your support as a valued partner in this historic effort.

**The information in this kit will be updated regularly** through our website at [www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships) as we continue to work hard to give you the latest information on changes to Medicare, including the new Medicare prescription drug coverage. **Please visit our website often** to learn about changes in the Resource Kit, new resources you can use, and other Medicare training materials. **Partners who receive this kit at training workshops can [register online](#) to join our listserv and receive latest updates automatically.**

This CD is part of the Medicare Rx *Help is Here Resource Kit*. The kit is designed to be an additional insert to the enrollment section of the toolkit, or to be used as a stand-alone enrollment product. It is presented in a clear envelope containing six file folders in a coral color consistent with the current design of the Medicare Rx campaign.

### **What you will find on this CD.** All files that are included in this *Resource Kit*

Cover Page – Overview of contents

#### Folder 1- How to Help

This folder contains information about your important role in helping people with their decisions about the new Medicare prescription drug coverage. It describes the **steps you can take** to help them, regardless of what type of prescription drug coverage they have now or where they are in the decision-making process.

#### Folder 2 – **Understanding** Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage

This folder contains a **CD, brochures and an article** that give people with Medicare, along with their families and friends, **basic information about the new coverage**. You can refer to this information to help you explain the new coverage.

#### Folder 3 – **Deciding** about Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage

Look at the information in this folder on five different audiences to find the situation that best fits the person you are helping. Then read the fact sheet for that group to find out what the person needs to know about how his or her coverage works with Medicare prescription drug coverage, what decisions he or she will have to make, and how to get more information. **If you are helping someone with limited income and resources, you should use folder 5 to see if the person qualifies for the extra help.**

#### Folder 4 – **Choosing and Joining** a Plan

This folder includes:

- A **worksheet** you can use at enrollment events or in counseling sessions to assemble an individual's personal information. The form can be filled out by you, the person with Medicare, or the person's friend or family member. Then you can use the information provided on the form to find the plans meeting that person's needs.
- A **CD** that demonstrates the Plan Finder and gives you examples of how to use it
- A CD containing national and state-specific versions of the *Medicare & You 2006* handbook with detailed **information on the drug plans in your specific area**. You can view and print just the pages you need. You can also order a handbook by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), or by going online ([www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) or [www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships)) for a [state-specific version](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships). Multiple copies of publications can be mailed to you by submitting requests to <http://pubordering.cms.hhs.gov/maillinglist>. Publications are available in English, Large Print, Spanish, Braille and on Audio-tape.
- Fact sheets on **how to compare and join** plans, and how to protect personal information
- A model enrollment form

#### Folder 5 – **Extra Help** with Medicare Drug Plan Costs

This folder contains **practical tools** to help you assist persons with Medicare falling in various income categories to apply for extra help with the new Medicare prescription drug coverage. These tools include:

- Fact sheets to explain type of extra help available for various audiences
- A table showing prescription costs based on income and resource levels
- A **worksheet** to help you figure out extra help for the new Medicare Rx
- A **model SSA application** for applying for extra help. Remember that only original forms can be mailed in; photocopies or print copies of the original cannot be scanned and submitting them would delay the extra help. If you need original forms, you can call the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 or TTY 1-800-325-0778

#### Folder 6 – **Resources to Help You**

**All files are provided in electronic format on a CD**, even for those without internet access. If you have internet connectivity you may use the links embedded in the enclosed Word document. If you are responsible for training staff, colleagues, or people with Medicare, you may [order more materials for outreach](#) on the Medicare prescription coverage or [Medicare publications](#) in general, at the links provided. This folder also contains contacts for CMS staff and for State Health Insurance Assistance (SHIP) staff working in your area on the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage; both of these resources can provide individualized counseling and support with outreach and enrollment activities.

- Relevant fact sheets and publications
- Questions and answers about Medicare prescription drug coverage
- Full text of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003
- MMA Title I and Title II Summary
- Online link to order [Outreach materials about Medicare Rx](#)

- Online link to [\*interactive Web-Based Training modules\*](#) and [\*workshops \(fall 2005\)\*](#)
- Online link to the [\*Social Security Administration \(SSA\)\*](#)
- A set of **vignettes, or examples to illustrate** or explain how the new Medicare prescription drug coverage applies to various audiences, regardless of type of prescription coverage they currently have.
- [CMS](#) and [SSA](#) materials for **non-English** speaking audiences

If you need further assistance, please contact Charlotte Newman at [bspgtraining@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:bspgtraining@cms.hhs.gov), referencing the Resource Kit. Thank you very much for your efforts in helping people with Medicare understand their new health care choices.

Best regards,  
National *Medicare & You* Training Team  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

**Thank You!**